

named the village, was created in 1831 as an enclave that attracted freedmen and women and scores of white Americans who made the village their home between 1831 and 1888. In the late 1850s the village reached its pinnacle with a post office, boarding house, and several businesses. It became one of the most significant communities in western Illinois. Moreover, it established itself as a cradle for black pride and self-determinism, as well as racial cooperation. The demise of the town started in the 1870s when the village leaders could not influence the railroad system to route its tracks through the black town. Without the railroad, New Philadelphia rapidly declined as villagers moved to more prosperous areas. By 1888, the black community had virtually become a ghost town.

The University of Illinois has begun the task of historical and archeological research to preserve and present the story of New Philadelphia to the American public. Through the efforts of the African-American Studies Program, the Lincoln Institute, and the community-based New Philadelphia Association, the University is laying the foundation for the protection and preservation of the New Philadelphia site. In the fall of 2002, Professor Vibert White, Chair of the African-American Studies Program and Director of the New Philadelphia Initiative, will lead a group of archeologists in a land survey and archeological investigations. Documentation will also be submitted for nominating New Philadelphia to the National Register of Historic Places.

For more information, visit the website at <http://newphiladelphia.uis.edu/>

NARA Symposium on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders

On Saturday, May 4, 2002, the

PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVES

National Archives and Records Administration-Pacific Region (NARA), in conjunction with the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, and 12 major historical organizations, hosted "Reclaiming the Legacy: Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in U.S. History." A capacity crowd of nearly 400 attended an all-day public conference at the University of San Francisco's Lone Mountain Conference Center.

According to Daniel Nealand, NARA-San Francisco Regional Archives Director, "Reclaiming the Legacy" was the first and largest public event of its kind, bringing together historical insights, issues, performances, and art by and about Americans with 'roots' in China, Japan, the Philippines, Korea, Vietnam, India, Hawaii, and American Samoa."

Following the opening Taiko Drum ceremony and morning keynote address by Congressman Tom Lantos, attendees chose among 40 presentations and four subject tracks featuring acclaimed authors and historians, award-winning filmmakers, performing artists, genealogists, and museum and archival resources experts. Twenty-two presentations stemmed from National Archives research. The afternoon keynote address featured Helen Zia, former executive and current contributing editor to *Ms. Magazine*, journalist, and author of *Asian American Dreams: The Emergence of an American People*. At the conference closing reception, John Tsu, Chair of the White House Commission on Asian American and Pacific Islanders, read a Presidential Proclamation on Asian Pacific Heritage Month.

The conference is a result of the

efforts to use the President's executive powers on behalf of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI). In June 1999, President Clinton issued Executive Order 13216, directing the agencies of the Federal government to use their resources to improve the quality of life of these populations. The Executive Order established both an external Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and an Interagency Working Group.

One decision of the Interagency Working Group was to develop and inventory of existing Federal programs and services designated for

Taiko drummers open the AAPI conference in San Francisco. Photo illustration by Marcia Axtmann Smith based on photo courtesy of NARA.

the AAPI community. Most participants assumed that the inventory would list typical social services and grant programs. However, since the cultural resources agencies of the Federal government were included in the Interagency Working Group, the inventory contained a surprising breadth of topics, including an inventory of cultural services to the target population.

The inventory pulled together all the AAPI cultural resources available across the Federal government. NARA saw the potential for new initiatives in these resources. It prepared a list of its archival resources relating to the AAPI community: immigrant ship rosters, files relating to the implementation of exclusionary laws, photographs, and census reports. The various agencies realized that despite the wealth of AAPI historical and cultural resources in their possession, the AAPI story was largely missing in history textbooks and in the memory of the greater population.

The result of all of these events was "Reclaiming the Legacy." Participating agencies included NARA, the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation, the Chinese Historical Society of America, Filipino American National Historical Society, National Japanese American Historical Society, San Francisco State University Asian American Studies Department, University of San Francisco Religion and Immigration Project, and the Center for the Pacific Rim.

The conference contributed to "reclaiming the legacy" of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the United States, and demonstrated the positive role Federal agencies can play as a catalyst for such activities.

For more information, contact Kevin Green at kevin.green@archives.gov.

Association of African American Museums 2002 Annual Conference

Michele Gates-Moresi
National Park Service

The Association of African American Museums (AAAM) held its annual meeting entitled, "A Sacred Trust: Interpreting Our Past, Preserving Our Future," August 21-24, 2002, in Washington, DC. The Smithsonian's Anacostia Museum and Center for African American History and Culture hosted the conference. The conference offered an array of paper presentations, panel discussions, local tours, and events that stimulated conversations and facilitated institutional cooperation. The conference was an opportunity to learn about other colleagues' activities, various museum programs, and the latest trends in the field.

The conference saw its best attendance number ever and gained unprecedented coverage in the media. Some sessions were televised by C-Span, including the first session of African-American museum pioneers. AAAM conference proceedings were covered in part by National Public Radio. This media attention reflects the growing number of people working in African-American cultural institutions as well as an increasing interest from the mainstream museum community in African-American issues.

Distinguished keynote speakers were Professors John Hope Franklin of Duke University and Deborah Newman-Ham of Morgan State University. Professor Franklin offered humble and inspiring words by describing aspects of his career through a series of encounters with giants in the field: Mary McLeod Bethune, W.E.B. Du Bois, and Theodore Shirley Currier. His presence throughout the conference was a unique opportunity for all partici-

pants to see and hear in person this prolific and honored scholar. Professor Newman-Ham used endearing stories of discussing history with children, including her own, to point out the need to better educate students in history to ensure the future of the museum field.

Conference sessions stayed true to the theme of looking backward, pondering the present, and thinking ahead. The first sessions, "Reflections: History of the African American Museums From its Pioneers," allowed the audience to hear from Margaret T. Burroughs, who was involved in the founding of the AAAM and founder of the DuSable Museum in Chicago, and from Joan Maynard, who pioneered local African-American historic preservation in her work to found the Society for the Preservation of Weeksville and Bedford-Stuyvesant in New York, among others in the field. The panel moderator, Professor Gabriel Tenabe of Morgan State University, pointed out that while so many had been busy founding museums and programs to preserve and disseminate black history and culture, they had overlooked recording the story of their own struggles. Thus, he had been inspired to assemble the panel and start a dialogue between the old generation and the new.

Other sessions ranged from presentations on Gullah traditions and culture to marketing and fundraising issues in the context of a post-9/11 economic climate. In addition to the tours and events familiarizing attendees with local history, a panel session on black architects illustrated their impact on the architectural landscape of Washington, DC.

A significant event of the conference was the plenary session, "Toward a National African American Museum," in which speakers offered insight about past efforts to establish a museum that first began in 1916. The session described the current state of the Presidential

Commission for the National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC), and heard concerns and ideas from the African-American museum community. Panel speakers included Commission members, historians, a representative from the Smithsonian secretary's office, and AAAM president, William Gwaltney.

The plenary session was an opportunity for commission members to hear the opinions of African-American museum professionals. Several individuals expressed their concerns, indicating a high-level of engagement and emotional ties to the Commission's endeavor. Comments included: young people need to be a part of the process; a national conversation about slavery must be at the core of the museum's program; local stories should not be forgotten; and the Commission needs to make a serious effort to listen to the concerns of everyone, especially those who know and practice their own history. The Commission plans to hold a series of "Town Hall Meetings" throughout the country intended to solicit the public views.

The next AAAM annual conference will be held in Chattanooga, Tennessee at the Marriott Convention Center during Aug 20-23, 2003. The conference theme will be announced in November.

For more information on the conference, visit the website at www.blackmuseums.org, or contact William Billingsley, 937/376-4944, ext. 123; e-mail: wbillingsley@ohiohistory.org. For more information on NMAAHC, visit the website at planning.den.nps.gov/nmaahc, or contact the staff for the Commission at 202/208-4227.

National Trust's National Preservation Conference

Brian D. Joyner
National Park Service

The National Trust for Historic Preservation held its annual confer-

ence on October 8-13, 2002, in Cleveland, Ohio. Over 1,500 people attended the conference and were introduced to a range of preservation activities in the Cleveland metropolitan area, from the outlying counties, to the pastoral setting of the Cuyahoga Valley, and the broad avenues and towering buildings of its downtown. This year's theme, "Cities, Suburbs & Countryside," addressed the concerns of preservationists in dealing with a region as diverse—in its landscape, ethnicities, and economic opportunities—as Northeast Ohio.

The opening plenary session featured Fran Mainella, Director of the National Park Service; Cleveland Mayor Jane Campbell; Richard Moe, President of the Trust; Bishop Anthony M. Pilla; and Cleveland native, Rodney J. Reynolds, publisher of *American Legacy Magazine*. Each addressed the need for the historic preservation to reflect all of American society. Mr. Reynolds was later presented with the Southeast Regional African American Preservation Alliance's "Triangle of Service Award" for his magazine's efforts on behalf of African-American historic preservation.

Among the conference highlights was the session "Broadening Diversity in the Preservation Movement." National Trust Board of Advisors members Elmo Baca (New Mexico), Janese Chapman (Michigan), Sue Fawn Chung (Nevada), Arleen Pabón (Puerto Rico), and independent consultants William Colburn and Rudy Lamarr, engaged in conversations regarding contemporary cultural diversity issues. By asking several advisors three questions—"How and why does historic preservation resonate with you?, What barriers have you personally experienced and/or witnessed?, and What suggestions do you have for making preservation more welcoming to more people?"—the session tried to shed light on

current preservation perspectives. Pabón suggested that preservationists needed to "question traditional historic preservation perceptions and interpretations and, most importantly, its current philosophical paradigms that, in some cases, have remained unchanged for more than forty years," to determine their relevance in the modern preservation movement.

The result of the "Broadening Diversity" session was a four-part recommendation, as articulated by Pabón: 1) examining and understanding what it is we call American culture, 2) trying not to trivialize or 'sacramentalize' what we do as preservationists, 3) recognizing and accepting the difficulties of preservation in an American society rooted in materialism and change, and 4) constantly question ourselves by asking, "Why are we doing this?" The task for preservationists is a complex one: preserving not the private heritage of a few enlightened souls but the heritage of humanity.

The National Trust's annual National Preservation Honor Award ceremony at Severance Music Hall saw a number of diverse projects honored. Included among the honorees was the Hamilton Hotel in Laredo, Texas, once a cultural and social hub for the Latino community in North and South America, now renovated to serve the elderly community; the restored Temple of Kwan Tai, a Buddhist temple in Mendocino, California; and, the refurbished Wabash YMCA in the Bronzeville section of Chicago, Illinois. In addition, the *Hartford Courant*, America's longest continuously published newspaper, received an award for its efforts on behalf of historic preservation (a special edition of the *Courant's* Sunday magazine, *Northeast*, is featured in this issue of *Heritage Matters*, under "Conferences, Publications, and Announcements").

Each conference session, tour, or



workshop highlighted preservation activities and issues addressing one of the five focus areas: advocacy, cultural diversity, federal and state stewardship of historic sites, heritage tourism, and international preservation. Sessions were interlaced with walking tours, such as a tour of Cleveland's ethnic enclaves, and workshops, such as one on historic rehabilitation tax credits. The Cleveland conference sessions illustrated the range of new preservation issues being addressed by preservationists throughout the country. Next year's National Trust meeting will be held in Denver, Colorado, September 30-October 5.

For more information, contact the National Trust at 800/944-6847, or visit their website at <http://www.nthpconference.org/>. Arleen Pabón also contributed to the writing of this article.

California's Latino Legacy

Refugio I. Rochin
University of Notre Dame

From the time of California's first sighting in 1542 by the navigator Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo, to the time of Manifest Destiny and the end of

(left) The influence of Spanish culture on American architecture is abundantly evident at Scotty's Castle, a National Register-listed property in Death Valley, California. Photo by Jack Boucher for the Historic American Buildings Survey.

(opposite) This sign marks the coordinates used to denote what was then known as Indian Territory, now Oklahoma. Photo courtesy of Flisa Stevenson.

the U.S. War with Mexico in 1848, Latinos laid a remarkable foundation in California.

Before Cabrillo's voyage the name California was given in a